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The Hanged Man's Song

Description

Review of *The Hanged Man's Song* / Sandford, John. New York: 2003

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The Hanged Man's Song

Posted on **October 1, 2004** by **Editor**



By Jeffrey Barlow <barlowj@pacificu.edu>

Editor, *Interface*

Sandford, John. *The Hanged Man's Song*

New York: 2003

We have over the past very pleasant years at the Berglund Center for Internet Studies been able to indulge our penchant for reading fiction that is, at best, on the fringes—the distant fringes—of literature. Encouraged by occasional emails from similarly afflicted readers, we have continually searched for fictional works that tell us something about the impact of the Internet.

The work currently under review, John Sandford's *The Hanged Man's Song*, comes closest to our ideal of Internet-related fiction; much closer say, than previous works reviewed here, including those of William Gibson, Neil Stephenson, Dan Brown, or R. J. Pineiro. [1] We find Gibson and Stephenson too speculative to tell us much about the current impact of the Internet, though fascinating when thinking about possible futures. Brown too often produces uni-dimensional characters, and Pineiro seeks a less literate audience than our own. Doubtless there is something in these, our opinions, to offend most of the millions of readers of these authors, each of who has found his audience.

But *The Hanged Man's Song*, which recently went into mass-market paperback, shows a very experienced writer at the height of his craft. Although we refer to the author here as John Sanford, this is actually the nom de plume of John Camp, a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist. Camp/Sanford is probably best noted for his "Prey" series, featuring Lucas Davenport, a policeman who has made sufficient money writing video games to drive a Porsche and investigate whatever quirky crime catches his interest. And while these have clearly found a wide audience—there are fifteen books in the series as of May 2004—it is the much shorter (four books) "Kidd" series that interests us here. [2]

Kidd, the protagonist of the series, is essentially a White Hat hacker who finances himself through industrial and political hacking, often of a rather questionable nature, so perhaps his hat is off-

white. He works with a sometime-lover, LuEllen, a skilled cat burglar who is no better than she need be.

Kidd has also, through the four novels, had ties to a wider world of skilled hackers who have made brief appearances in most of the works. In *The Hanged Man's Song*, they become the center of the plot as the legendary "Bobby," a hacker so skilled and reclusive that even his closest friends have not met him, is somehow tracked down and killed. Bobby's heavily encrypted laptop, carrying sufficient information to get all the members of the ring imprisoned for forever or worse, is lost. The search for the violent perpetrator leads Kidd and LuEllen through a labyrinth of violent criminals and politicians.

The advantage of writing a character-driven series like the Kidd novel is that the author can develop great depth to the fictional world the character inhabits. The disadvantage is that such books easily become so self-referential as to exclude new readers. Even worse, the writer can take his or her audience's enthusiasm so for granted that the series becomes a sort of parody, like the once-scintillating Spencer series of Robert Parker.

Sandford himself has come close to writing Kidd to death (I felt his last work, *The Devil's Code*, rather weak.), but with *The Hanged Man's Song* he brings the series back on track and gives us entirely believable and always entertaining glimpses into the criminal underworld of the hacker, his prey, and those who prey upon him or her.

For those who like a lot of computer-related detail in their fiction, *The Hanged Man's Song* is a delight. Most of the Kidd novels can be found used at Amazon.com, and if you haven't read them yet, start at the beginning and watch both the character and computer-related crime develop steadily with the Internet itself.

Footnotes:

[1] For reviews, see: William Gibson, *Pattern Recognition* found at:

<http://bcis.pacificu.edu/journal/article.php?id=444>;

For Brown, see our review *Digital Fortress*, found at:

<http://bcis.pacificu.edu/journal/article.php?id=379>;

For Stephenson see: *Cryptonomicon*, found at:

<http://bcis.pacificu.edu/journal/article.php?id=443>;

For Pineiro see:

<http://bcis.pacificu.edu/journal/article.php?id=367>.

[2] See Sanford's website at: <http://www.johnsandford.org/> Both the Prey and Kidd series are listed chronologically at: <http://www.johnsandford.org/listofbooks.html>

This entry was posted in Uncategorized by **Editor**. Bookmark the **permalink** [<http://bcis.pacificu.edu/interface/?p=2992>].

28 THOUGHTS ON "THE HANGED MAN'S SONG"

free money jokeson **January 29, 2014 at 10:01 PM** said:

I really like reading a post that will make people think. Also, many thanks for allowing for me to comment!

creator zombieon **January 31, 2014 at 8:38 PM** said:

Write more, thats all I have to say. Literally, it seems as though you relied on the video to make your point. You obviously know what youre talking about, why waste your intelligence on just posting videos to your blog when you could be giving us something informative to read?

Randolphon **February 1, 2014 at 1:12 AM** said:

My spouse and I stumbled over here coming from a different web address and thought I may as well check things out. I like what I see so now i'm following you. Look forward to going over your web page again.

sales video blogon **February 1, 2014 at 5:27 AM** said:

Thanks for sharing your thoughts. I truly appreciate your efforts and I will be waiting for your further write ups thank you once again.

blueprint park slope

on **February 1, 2014 at 6:25 AM** said:

I'm really impressed with your writing skills as well as with the layout on your blog. Is this a paid theme or did you customize it yourself? Either way keep up the nice quality writing, it is rare to see a great blog like this one these days.

Astrid

on **February 1, 2014 at 6:47 AM** said:

Hi! Do you use Twitter? I'd like to follow you if that would be ok. I'm undoubtedly enjoying your blog and look forward to new posts.

how make money

on **February 1, 2014 at 11:11 AM** said:

I'm amazed, I must say. Seldom do I come across a blog that's both educative and engaging, and without a doubt, you've hit the nail on the head. The issue is an issue that too few people are speaking intelligently about. Now i'm very happy I came across this in my hunt for something concerning this.

1000 loan bad credit

on **February 1, 2014 at 2:11 PM** said:

Thanks for your personal marvelous posting! I certainly enjoyed reading it, you might be a great author. I will be sure to bookmark your blog and definitely will come back later on. I want to encourage you to ultimately continue your great work, have a nice morning!

android application development company india

on **February 2, 2014 at 9:11 PM** said:

Thanks for the auspicious writeup. It actually was once a leisure account it.

Look complex to far introduced agreeable from you!

By the way, how could we be in contact?

Elsie

on **February 2, 2014 at 10:04 PM** said:

I am curious to find out what blog platform you're working with?

I'm experiencing some minor security problems with my latest blog and

I would like to find something more risk-free. Do you have any solutions?

work online reading emails

on **February 3, 2014 at 1:01 AM** said:

It's hard to find well-informed people on this subject, but you sound like you know what you're talking about! Thanks

social network

on **February 3, 2014 at 1:48 AM** said:

I could be beating a dead horse, but thank you for posting this!

plotki

on **February 3, 2014 at 1:54 AM** said:

Thank you for your very good writeup. It actually was a amusement account it. Seem advanced to far added agreeable from you! However, how can we communicate?

gold ira rollover

on **February 3, 2014 at 7:13 AM** said:

Pretty section of content. I simply stumbled upon your web site and in accession capital to say that I acquire in fact enjoyed account your weblog posts.

Any way I will be subscribing for your augment or even I fulfillment you get right of entry to constantly quickly.

work from home loan officer

on **February 3, 2014 at 1:24 PM** said:

Simply want to say your article is as amazing. The clearness in your post is just nice and i can assume you're an expert on this subject. Fine with your permission allow me to grab your feed to keep updated with forthcoming post.

Thanks a million and please keep up the rewarding work.

gold Element

on **February 3, 2014 at 9:21 PM** said:

I am not sure where you're getting your info, but good topic. I needs to spend some time learning more or understanding more. Thanks for wonderful info I was looking for this info for my mission.

Leonor

on **February 3, 2014 at 10:36 PM** said:

This site was... how do you say it? Relevant!! Finally I've found something that helped me. Appreciate it!

Ambrose

on **February 4, 2014 at 7:26 AM** said:

Thanks for sharing your thoughts about teagames

free xxx

youth

hiroshima

vegas vacations

free classified ads

uce

nb town

trisha

government loans

waterfall

ford dealer

crohn's

home based business opportunity

degenerative disc disease

buy to let property insurance

donate auto

italy vacations

loan officer

timeshare rentals

beer koozies

wine labels

classic car

tcnj

healdsburg hotels

lightolier

red rock casino

chasecreditcard

saturn dealers

bachelor degrees

pay day advance

crispers

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online backup services

hot stock

green mountain

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medford massachusetts
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greenhouses
zoomtown
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loafers
waukegan illinois
roi
used car parts
hdtv plasma
papa john's pizza
prudence
tennis clothing
refinance mortgage interest rate
peoria movers
online high school diploma
yahoopersonals com
real estate phoenix az
a+
instrumental
bacteria
riverside travel
colleyville texas
martin luther
best diet pills
nautica bedding
counsel
laminate
crack cocaine
gay guys
blush
ocean city hotel
bow

secret friends
da
salisbury
delta college
letters
eeyore
liftmaster
calculater
photosynthesis
æ"1é€ ä,³äf¼äf%
home design software
www suntrust com
sienna miller
tropical flowers
warrant
treo 750
tub
thai
wolf camera
computers for sale
burglar alarm
refinancing mortgage loans
home equity loan information
cargo pants
freedom of speech
duvet
porter cable
brevard community college
psychology today
curve
nike id
edina minnesota
online video
two
resilient
turducken
livejournal com
open24
google webmaster tools
test prep courses
international travel health insurance
wu chun
imax

walt disney world resort
franklin high school
trek
ondertitels
catherine bell
gamecube cheats
dubai hotel
seven for all mankind
bethlehem
mad thumbs
adam4adam com
piccolettrasgressioni
cubby house
omc
bulldog
shoe carnival
athens greece
nana
dear abby
slim thug
gÃ¼llÃ¼n
lesbian stories
luxury cars
secured personal loan
forming an llc
dwi attorney
business internet providers
gmc denali
colts tickets
redmond high
terry's village
orlando vacation home rental
kissimmee real estate
princeville hotels
lexipro
aÃkÃ¶gretim
sextv1 tv
aÃkÃ¶gretim
management software tools
top 10 web hosting
ggogle earth
wealth management
fairfax realtors

somerset community college
bypass
securities
saint paul condominiums
san clemente
gainesville hotel
lawsuit loans
cookinglight
loyola academy
affiliate internet marketing
hp toner
bad jojo
lafayette movers
equafax
leo org
bit torrent
morenasex
eddie bower
super mario
email marketing company
rochester motels
chris botti
roof
animated graphic
finances
active com
last minute vacations
electrolysis services
hyaluronic acid
calendar templates
pappa johns
dsl modem
patch
worlds of fun
loudoun county public schools
mall of georgia
private equity
tacit
philadelphia international airport
universal studios hollywood
pseg
anesthesiologist
pittsburgh pa

lifted trucks
fix
life on mars
fitness equipment stores
egepargne
purdue
axe
skins
amy whinehouse
social security law
biblegateway
magna carta
adorable
milkshake
bramka plusa
kenwood
dirtbikes
helen
the beach boys
pink hearts
technical writing
judas priest
tu vi
matt white
hotel orlando
reggie
lu
jamie spears
made in sport
summer dresses
the bean
healthy weight loss
earth map
london airfare
beckley hotels
google photos
drew university
fremont
arizona corporation commission
evergreen colorado
www pogo com. Regards

Melodee

on **February 4, 2014 at 9:22 AM** said:

Thanks , I've recently been searching for info approximately this subject for a while and yours is the greatest I have found out so far. However, what concerning the bottom line? Are you positive concerning the supply?

social network games

on **February 4, 2014 at 11:29 AM** said:

Wow, superb blog layout! How long have you been blogging for? you made blogging look easy. The overall look of your web site is wonderful, as well as the content!

Leilani

on **February 4, 2014 at 12:20 PM** said:

It is perfect time to make a few plans for the long run and it is time to be happy. I've read this publish and if I could I wish to suggest you few attention-grabbing issues or suggestions. Maybe you can write subsequent articles referring to this article. I wish to learn even more things about it!

Money pictures

on **February 4, 2014 at 12:37 PM** said:

I'm not sure where you're getting your information, but great topic. I needs to spend some time learning much more or understanding more. Thanks for magnificent info I was looking for this information for my mission.

Magdalena

on **February 4, 2014 at 12:59 PM** said:

I'm really loving the theme/design of your blog.
Do you ever run into any browser compatibility issues?

A number of my blog visitors have complained about my website not operating correctly in Explorer but looks great in Safari. Do you have any ideas to help fix this issue?

Dominga

on **February 4, 2014 at 8:20 PM** said:

Appreciation to my father who shared with me regarding this blog, this webpage is truly awesome.

online money

on **February 4, 2014 at 11:17 PM** said:

Appreciate this post. Will try it out.

attraction candle spell

on **February 5, 2014 at 1:56 AM** said:

Hello there! This is kind of off topic but I need some advice from an established blog. Is it very difficult to set up your own blog?
I'm not very technical but I can figure things out pretty fast.
I'm thinking about making my own but I'm not sure where to start.
Do you have any tips or suggestions? Many thanks

Rusty

on **February 5, 2014 at 2:12 AM** said:

Howdy fantastic website! Does running a blog like this require a massive amount work? I've very little expertise in computer programming but I was hoping to start my own blog in the near future. Anyway, should you have any recommendations or tips for new blog owners please share. I understand this is off topic nevertheless I simply needed to ask. Kudos!

Website Citation Builder

on **February 5, 2014 at 7:08 AM** said:

When some one searches for his required thing, therefore he/she wants to be available that in detail, thus that thing is maintained over here.